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Message Text

SECRET

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46
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 104465
P R 221819Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8366
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T LONDON 01115

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL

REF: STATE 6146 AND FOLLOWING

1. WHEELER, ASSISTANT HEAD OF FCO NEAR EAST DEPARTMENT, BRIEFLY REVIEWED DISCUSSION ON LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL AT MEETING OF EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN LUXEMBOURG HELD JANUARY 19-20. PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS FIRST SUCH MEETING HELD IN LUXEMBOURG, HE ASKED THAT WE HOLD THIS CONVERSATION CLOSELY.

2. POLITICAL DIRECTORS DISCUSSED US PROPOSAL INCONCLUSIVELY SINCE PECIPIENTS OF US APPROACH HAD NOT YET REACHED A CONSIDERED VIEW AND OTHER MEMBERS OF EC WERE UNPREPARED. CONSENSUS WAS, IF WE CAN DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE, WE SHOULD. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A FAIR DEGREE OF CAUTION. THE DIRECTORS THOUGHT FOLLOWING ASPECTS
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SHOULD BE LOOKED AT CAREFULLY:

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A) IF CONCERTED MOVE HAD REAL EFFECT, WOULD IT SIMPLY LEAD TO UNBALANCED SITUATION DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CHRISTIANS?;
B) IF STATEMENT WERE ISSUED AND FOLLOWED UP VIS-A-VIS THE SYRIANS, MIGHT NOT THE LATTER REQUEST SIXTH FLEET TO BLOCK DELIVERIES TO CHRISTIANS?; AND
C) NOT ALL REPS OF EC COUNTRIES FELT THEY COULD EFFECTIVELY CONTROL ALL DEALS ORIGINATING WITH THEIR OWN NATIONALS.

3. IT WAS FELT THAT IT WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME TO TIGHTEN UP ARMS CONTROL PROCEDURES SUCH AS LICENSING, BUT THAT A PUBLIC DECLARATION MIGHT HAVE MORE IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT.

4. WHEELER EXPECTED THE EC MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS WOULD LOOK AT THE PROBLEM AT THEIR JANUARY 28 MEETING, BUT THAT MEANWHILE HMG WOULD CONTINUE TO CONSIDER STEPS TO PUSH ON BEFORE THEN TOWARD SOME FORM OF ACTION.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, ARMS EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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